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Sent: Sunday, February 20, 2022 8:28 PM
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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 20

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-20 at 1900 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

No incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

On February 14, 2022, the federal government invoked the *Emergencies Act* to provide additional powers to handle ongoing blockades and protests against pandemic restrictions. PM Trudeau said the measures will be geographically targeted and time limited. A cabinet declaration of emergency is in effect immediately and must be presented to Parliament within seven days. A vote on a motion to support the act's invocation is expected early next week; the Senate will then proceed to debate and vote on it as well. If either the Commons or the Senate votes against the motion, the emergency declaration will be revoked.

Ottawa Demonstrations

Police Reporting

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS), with the assistance of the OPP, RCMP and municipal police services from across the country continued enforcement action today. Arrests and the removal of vehicles are ongoing; as of 1500 hours today, OPS has reported a total of 191 arrests, 389 charges laid, and 79 vehicles towed.

Public Order Units (POUs) have been monitoring gatherings at the War Museum and Confederation Park; Provincial Liaison Team (PLT) officers are engaged at both locations. Additionally, approximately 100 protestors gathered to demonstrate at the intersection of Sir John A Macdonald Parkway and Booth Street this afternoon. Sir John A Macdonald Parkway is currently cleared of all but one vehicle. Protestors located at Coventry Road continue to dismantle the encampment and are leaving.

Fencing is now installed along Sparks Street from Elgin Street to Bay Street. Parliamentary access is provided at Kent Street.

A protest at a service station in Vankleek Hill (in Hawkesbury) transpired today. Approximately 50 commercial vehicles and 50 passenger vehicles were at the site and participants set up at least one tent in the area. A number of the vehicles at the site appear to have been involved in the Ottawa blockade. The owner of the service station today requested that the convoy and their supporters vacate the property immediately. PLT is on site liaising and delivering the owner's message. As of 1800 hours, the protestors were relocating to a nearby farm property.

A demonstration is ongoing at an agricultural property in Arnprior and a farm field has been made available for convoy participants to stay. Approximately 30-50 vehicles are at the location and are believed to be demonstrators leaving Ottawa. PLT is engaged.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging from some leadership figures within the convoy are advising supporters to leave Ottawa. Other leadership figures have called on supporters to re-group and plan for next steps.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

There are currently no protestors in the area of the Legislature. Legislative Protective Service reported approximately 30 protestors in the North Park; two protestors were on Queen's Park Circle and left without incident.

Toronto Police Service (TPS) closures of University Avenue between Dundas and College remain in place. Queen's Park Circle (between College St. and Bloor St.), Grosvenor St. (between Queen's Park Circle and Bay St.) and Wellesley St W. (between Bay St. and the entrance to the U of T campus) closures remain in place to prevent possible protest vehicles from attending the area.

Open Source Reporting

TPS reports that a rally in opposition of the freedom movement convoys and blockades is planned for Queens Park on February 21, 2022. It does not currently appear to be garnering significant interest online.

Social media messaging indicates that 'Freedom Toronto 2022' intends to continue their march on a daily basis.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Ambassador Bridge is fully open. Canada-bound and US-bound traffic is flowing freely.

The OPP reported a very small protest near the bridge this morning. No incidents of note was reported.

The OPP reported that blockade supporters in Windsor are fundraising to support Windsor residents arrested in the protest at the Ambassador Bridge last weekend.

Ports of Entry – Niagara / Peace Bridge

Police Reporting

The QEW is open. Police initiated a brief closure of QEW and Gilmore on the morning of February 19, 2022 (today).

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

OPP reporting indicates that traffic is moving normally at the Blue Water Bridge.

Additional staging has been established in Warwick, close to Hwy 402, in order to more effectively respond to any attempt at disrupting Blue Water critical infrastructure and / or associated Highway 402 convoys.

Ports of Entry – Nipigon

Police Reporting

OPP reporting has identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for February 26, 2022.

Other Potential Activity

Police Reporting

OPP noted small slow-roll protests around Dryden and Thunder Bay. The Thunder Bay protest drove to the area of the Pigeon River border crossing and parked off of the highway.

OPP reporting indicates that a protest in support of those arrested in Ottawa on February 18, 2022 may be planned in Hawkesbury on February 21, 2022.

A bus trip that was to travel from Dunnville to Ottawa on February 22, 2022 in support of the unvaccinated truck protest has been cancelled.

Open source research has also identified social media messaging calling for a slowdown doing repetitive loops from off ramp to on ramp at all service centres on the 400 series highways. The author also calls for possibly targeting rail lines.

Open Source Reporting

Social media information indicates that farmers from the Thunder Bay area intend to block bridges and border crossings with 1000 tractors. The message also claims that they are going to a border crossing with 5,000 vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles. The border point is not named: it is possible that Pigeon River is the destination.

Other local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule below for additional information.

ASSESSMENT

The enforcement action to clear the Ottawa blockade is unlikely to deter future protests supported or organized by the same individuals. It is almost certain that anti-authority and anti-government protests, blockades, and acts of mischief in support of, or inspired by, the convoy protests will continue in the short, medium, and long term. Some blockade organizers and supporters have framed the blockade and related protests as a “war” that they will continue to fight.

Some participants and supporters of the Ottawa blockade may be looking to regroup to continue or replicate the protest elsewhere. At least one has indicated that they will plan for future events. Potential targets include police personnel and buildings, as well as elected officials, particularly those who represent the federal Liberal Party or who support the invocation of the *Emergencies Act*. Public officials at the provincial and municipal levels may also be at risk in the short term due to the declaration of the state of emergency by the Government of Ontario and protest-related injunctions obtained in Ottawa and Windsor. Individuals and businesses who have publicly voiced opposition to the blockade and/or related protests may also be targeted by freedom movement supporters. Support from elected officials and religious leaders, as well as online disinformation, will continue to fuel, validate, and reinforce ideologies and conspiracy theories that appear to underpin some of the protestors’ grievances and motives.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 21-25

Freedom Week

Organizer associated to the Ottawa truck convoy are encouraging individuals to participate in a week of civil disobedience

February 21, 2022

Detroit, Michigan

Potential Protest at Canadian Embassy in Detroit, Michigan

Perth & Wellington County

Departing 1200 hrs – Slow Roll

Route: Atwood Community Centre – Listowel – Gowanstown – Palmerston – Teviotdale – Rothsay & Drayton – Driscoll Farms at 7153 Side Road 12 Approx. end time: 1430 hrs at Driscoll Farms 1300

Kingston

Family Day Slow Roll

Highway 38 and Gardiner Rd Carpool Lot 1330 hrs

Hawkesbury

Support Protest

Saturday February 26, 2022

Nipigon Bridge

Protest was scheduled for 13 February has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022

Peterborough

Slow Roll meeting at Metro Parking Lot 1154 Chemong Rd.

U/K Date

Thunder Bay

Canada Unity – Operation Bearhug Canada

Strategic Border crossing disruptions. Plans unconfirmed.

Chris Letang

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